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Which Conspiracy theory came out real?

(self.AskReddit)

submitted 1 day ago by S-A DClown

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[-] KevineCove 608 points 1 day ago*

This is partially correct. I listened to (and read) the original Murray study at the University of Michigan Special Collections library. They wouldn't let me reproduce the audio but I have a transcript of it here:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1PjBmdQPB1fh5gTzJ9DWGrMT3fZxagLJH?usp=sharing>
Kaczynski later said that the essay he submitted was not an entirely accurate reflection of his actual beliefs, but rather a bunch of semi-outdated beliefs he held when he was 11 or 12. In a post-interview (not included in the link above) he also deduced that the other person was really trying to be hostile and commented that his language and demeanor seemed inorganic and performative (an insightful observation as the person that tried to character assassinate him was not another participant as he had been told, but one of the people running the study.)
TL;DR is that there was only one session where the test subjects' beliefs were torn down during an interview.

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[-] RyanCacophony 83 points 1 day ago

This isn't the whole transcript is it? I cant seem to find the start. This is fascinating that you have this, assuming its not already broadly available on the web.

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[-] KevineCove 54 points 1 day ago*

I took my access to the Special Collections for granted and didn't reproduce the entire document. There's only two other bits of Kaczynski-related reading I have which are not available anywhere else (to my knowledge,) those being the essays "Reflections on Purposeful Work" and "In Defense of Violence."

Ask a question

[SERIOUS]

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Submitted on 15 Dec 2021

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EDIT: I've just added these to the Google Drive folder.

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[\[-\]](#) [RyanCacophony](#) 21 points 1 day ago

Thanks for sharing this, this is incredible. Any chance you could leave any relevant info on how to find the material in case someone else can get access in the future?

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[\[-\]](#) [KevineCove](#) 31 points 1 day ago*

Ask a student or faculty member at University of Michigan to retrieve the information from the Special Collections Research Center at Hatcher Library. I would maybe recommend David Skrbina as a good point of contact, but he teaches at the Dearborn campus, so while he's a great authority on things related to anarcho-primitivism (he helped Kaczynski publish his first book) he can't just walk across the street and Xerox some essays for you. He could probably direct you to someone from the philosophy department in Ann Arbor... Or you could just ask some random undergrad to go on a fetch quest ([r/uofm](#))

Small warning: The amount of materials relating to Kaczynski are absolutely massive; there's an index that sorts the materials into several dozen boxes. So you'll need to look through the index (I think I lost access to this when I graduated,) then have the individual boxes requested, THEN have those boxes pulled out for you.

In many cases you can find digital copies of his work on the Anarchist Library, so I recommend looking there first.

Most of the material is correspondence people sent to him in prison, but there's also stuff regarding the FBI's investigation before he was caught, unpublished essays, journals, musical compositions, short stories, and miscellaneous stuff like the Murray study.

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[\[-\]](#) [RyanCacophony](#) 16 points 1 day ago

Wow, I'm not even like a big time follower of the case, but thats incredible that you can just access some of that stuff. Really curious to hear his music, cursory googling says that's not out either, although theres a reddit post from last year of someone looking for it. Curious what else they have in their collection!

Thanks again for all the info, I'm sure some internet researcher will find it useful down the line!

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[\[-\]](#) [KevineCove](#) 16 points 1 day ago

I didn't mention the compositions because I didn't think anyone would care to hear them, but I actually did reproduce March No. 4 and No. 5 (he says these are his favorites out of all his work.)

I added them to the drive in case you're curious.

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[\[-\]](#) [RyanCacophony](#) 9 points 1 day ago

You're just the gift that keeps on giving!

edit: wow, "fantasia for unaccompanied nose flute" is hilarious

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[\[-\]](#) [KevineCove](#) 6 points 1 day ago

Kaczynski has a great sense of humor. One of his funniest works is a story about him in high school science class:

<https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/apios-tuberosa-pseud-ted-kaczynski-how-i-blew-up-harold-snilly>

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  [\[-\] makejoshcum](#) 8 points 1 day ago

I can see why Kaczynski felt that way about the interviewer. Reading those pages the discussion really went nowhere. Interesting stuff.

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  [\[-\] MattP-14](#) 2 points 12 hours ago

That I'd a great write-up. Thank you for taking the time to do it!

Since you seem familiar with and able to explain it, mind if I ask you a question? I don't have many (or any) "sincerely held beliefs". I either a) am willing to change my mind presented with enough contrary evidence, or b) believe there are exceptions to almost every rule/belief.

How might I react to such an experiment?

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  [\[-\] KevineCove](#) 2 points 10 hours ago

I've done a decent amount of research into Kaczynski specifically and I'm familiar with the experiment, but I'm not a psychologist and I've (obviously) never conducted an experiment like this myself.

Wikipedia has a bit more info on the Murray study here (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Murray#Harvard_human_experiments._1959%E2%80%939362) although I disagree that the experiments are in any way correlative with Kaczynski's terrorist activities later on (I have my own very mundane theory on this if you care to hear it.)

My impression of the Murray study is that it was never about changing peoples' minds in the first place so much as it was about causing stress and upsetting the subjects. If you look at what Cherry says to Kaczynski you can see him repeatedly trying to derail the conversation into ad hominem attacks (the comment about the beard, talking about the paper the essay is written on, etc.) which Kaczynski immediately notices and points out ("all you're doing is applying labels.") I doubt you'd find much legitimate criticism if you'd been included in the study.

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  [\[-\] Timeon](#) 1 point 21 hours ago

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